

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original)

An expandable anode for diaphragm bipolar cells comprising two opposed main surfaces secured to a support structure and separated by a hollow space housing a reversible expansion device in its interior.

Claim 2 (currently amended)

The anode of claim 1 wherein said opposed main surfaces are provided with openings and are coated with a film of catalytic material for chlorine evolution.

Claim 3 (currently amended)

The anode of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said reversible expansion device forces said opposed main surfaces in a spread out position when the anode is assembled in the diaphragm bipolar cell and in a restrained position when the anode is disassembled.

Claim 4 (original)

The anode of claim 3 wherein the extent of said expansion is present prior to the cell assemblage.

Claim 5 (currently amended)

The anode of ~~the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein said reversible expansion device comprises a first elastic component fixed to said main surfaces connected to a second mobile component capable of reversible shifting said main surfaces provoking the expansion or contraction thereof respectively during the cell assembly or disassembly.

Claim 6 (original)

The anode of claim 5 wherein said mobile component is a pivot provided with spring and stopper.

Claim 7 (original)

The anode of claim 6 wherein said pivot comprises a first major diameter section capable of bringing said first elastic component to a restrained position, a second minor diameter section connected to said major diameter section by means of a conical junction capable of bringing said first elastic component from a position of maximum expansion to a position of intermediate expansion, a third electrically insulating tip section, said position of maximum expansion and said position of intermediate expansion determined by the distance between the apex of said third tip section and said spring.

Claim 8 (original)

The anode of claim 7 wherein said third tip section comprises a chemically inert polymeric material.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

The anode of claim 7 ~~or 8~~ wherein said distance between the apex of said third tip section and said spring is adjustable.

Claim 10 (original)

The anode of claim 9 wherein said distance between the apex of said third tip section and said spring is adjusted by rotating said third tip section in a condition of disassembled cell.

Claim 11 (currently amended)

The anode of ~~claims from~~ claim 5 ~~to 10~~ wherein said first elastic component and said second mobile component are made of materials comprising titanium.

Claim 12 (currently amended)

The anode of ~~claims from~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein said reversible expansion device comprises a strip secured to said support structure, provided with an elastic section and with a wedge-shaped component determining said expansion of said main surfaces fixed to said strip at the opposed extremity to that secured to said support structure.

Claim 13 (original)

The anode of claim 12 wherein said elastic section comprises a serpentine.

Claim 14 (currently amended)

The anode of claim 12 ~~or 13~~ wherein said wedge-shaped component has an acute angle apex oriented toward said strip.

Claim 15 (original)

The anode of claim 14 wherein said wedge-shaped component is electrically insulated in at least one planar section opposed to said acute angle apex.

Claim 16 (currently amended)

The anode of ~~claims from~~ claim 12 ~~to 15~~ wherein said wedge-shaped component is obtained by folding and fixing to an additional sheet said strip, and wherein the expansion of said surfaces is adjustable by means of the regulation of said acute angle.

Claim 17 (currently amended)

The anode of ~~claims from~~ claim 12 ~~to 16~~ wherein said strip and said wedge-shaped component are made of materials comprising titanium.

Claim 18 (currently amended)

A bipolar diaphragm cell comprising an anode of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 17~~.

Claim 19 (original)

A chlor-alkali electrolyzer comprising at least one cell of claim 18.

Claim 20 (cancelled)